

# The Hongkong Telegraph

N° 2170

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1889.

SIX DOLLARS  
PER QUARTER

## Banks.

### KULES OF THE HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

1.—THE BUSINESS of the above BANK will be conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, on their premises in Hongkong. Business Hours on WEEK-DAYS, 10 to 3; SATURDAYS, 10 to 1. 2.—SUMS LESS THAN \$1, OR MORE THAN \$250 at one time will not be received. No Depositor may deposit more than \$2,500 in any one year.

3.—DEPOSITORS in the SAVINGS BANK, having \$100, or more, at their credit may at their option transfer the same to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION on fixed deposit for 12 months at 5 per cent per annum interest, 4.—INTEREST at the rate of 3 1/4 % per annum will be allowed to Depositors on their daily balances.

5.—EACH DEPOSITOR will be supplied gratis with a PASS-BOOK, which must be presented with each payment or withdrawal. Depositors must not make any entries themselves in their PASS-BOOKS, but should send them to be written up at least twice a year, about the beginning of January and beginning of July.

6.—CORRESPONDENCE as to the Business of the Bank, if marked ON HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK BUSINESS, will be forwarded free by the various British Post Offices in Hongkong and China.

7.—WITHDRAWALS may be made on demand, but the personal attendance of the Depositor or his duly appointed Agent, and the production of his PASS-BOOK, are necessary.

FOR THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,

G. E. NOBLE,  
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1889.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL ..... \$7,500,000.  
RESERVE FUND ..... 4,300,000.  
RESERVE LIABILITY OF } 7,500,000.  
PROPRIETORS ..... 0.

COURT OF DIRECTORS:—  
CHAIRMAN—W. H. FORBES, Esq.  
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN—H. L. DALRYMPLE, Esq.  
Hon. J. BELL-IRVING, Esq.  
C. D. BOTTONLEY, Esq.  
J. S. MOSES, Esq.  
W. C. BRODIE, Esq.  
J. F. HOLLIDAY, Esq.  
H. E. LAYTON, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER,  
HONGKONG—G. E. NOBLE, Esq.  
MANAGER,  
SHANGHAI—EVAN CAMERON, Esq.  
LONDON BANKERS—LONDON AND  
COUNTY BANK.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED.  
ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT at the rate of 2 per cent per Annum on the daily balance.

ON FIXED DEPOSITS:—  
For 3 months, 3 per cent per Annum.  
For 6 months, 4 per cent per Annum.  
For 12 months, 5 per cent per Annum.

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.  
CREDITS granted on approved Securities, and every description of BANKING and EXCHANGE business transacted.

DRAFTS granted on London, and the chief commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

G. E. NOBLE,  
Chief Manager.  
Hongkong, 23rd February, 1889.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ..... \$2,000,000.  
PAID-UP CAPITAL ..... 500,000.  
Registered Office, 40, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON.

BRANCHES IN INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN  
AND THE COLONIES.

THE BANK receives MONEY, ON DEPOSIT, Buys and Sells BILLS OF EXCHANGE, ISSUES LETTERS OF CREDIT, forwards BILLS for COLLECTION, and Transacts Banking and Agency Business generally, on terms to be had on application.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS:—  
Paid for 12 months, 5 per cent per Annum.

6 " 4 " "

ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS per cent per Annum on the Daily Balance.

APPROVED CLAIMS on the ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, in Liquidation, or the BALANCES of such claims, purchased on advantageous terms.

AGENCY OF THE NATIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

E. W. RUTTER,  
Manager,  
HONGKONG BRANCH.

NOTICE.

HONGKONG & W. HAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

SHIPMasters AND ENGINEERS are respectfully informed that, if upon their arrival in this HARBOUR, none of the COMPANY'S FOREMEN should be at hand, ORDERS FOR REPAIRS, if sent to the HEAD OFFICE, No. 14, Praya Central, will receive prompt attention.

In the event of complaints being found necessary, communication with the Undersigned is requested, when immediate steps will be taken to rectify the cause of dissatisfaction.

D. GILLIES,  
Secretary.  
Hongkong, 15th August, 1888.

## For Sale.

### FOR SALE.

HER MAJESTY'S SCREW GUN VESSEL "MYRMIDON," as she lies off Kowloon Naval Yard. Length between Perpendiculars 180 feet. Breadth 28 feet. Displacement 877 tons. Built of Wood, Copper Fastened and Sheathed with Copper; Wood Beams. Engine Makers, Humphries. Original H.P. 700. Boilers 2. Present Pressure 22 lbs.

SEALED TENDERS marked "Tender for Ship" will be received at H.M. Naval Yard by 10 A.M. of MONDAY, the 8th April next. The highest or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.

A List of the Stores to be sold with the Ship and of Articles now on board which will not be sold with her, may be seen on application at the Office of the Naval Storekeeper.

TERMS OF SALE.—Cash on acceptance of Tender and the Ship with all faults and errors of description to be at Purchaser's risk from that time.

W. H. LOBB,  
Naval Storekeeper.  
Hongkong, 25th February, 1889.

## Auctions.

### IMPORTANT LAND SALE AT KOWLOON.

A VALUABLE BUILDING ESTATE will be offered for Sale by Auction, by G. R. LAMMERT, Auctioneer, ON

THURSDAY, the 7th March, at 2:30 P.M.

Comprising:—  
EIGHTY-SEVEN LOTS, known as Sections 1, 2, 3, &c., of Inland Lots 570 and 571, Yau-ma-tec, with extensive frontages to Robinson Road and other Public Roads, and excellent building sites already levelled for Building, Shops, Dwellings or Manufactory factories.

Fullest particulars, including Plans and Conditions of Sale, may be obtained on application to

HENRY J. HOLMES,  
Solicitor,  
54, Queen's Road,  
W. ST. JOHN H. HANCOCK,  
C.E., F.R.I.B.A.,  
3, Beaconsfield Arcade,  
or to the Auctioneer, Duddell Street.  
Hongkong, 20th February, 1889.

## Insurances.

### THREE IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE STANDARD LIFE OFFICE.

1.—HALF A MILLION STEERING per annum is being paid in Death claims year by year.

2.—THE FUNDS IN HAND amount to upwards of Six Million and Three-quarter pounds Sterling and have increased 50 per cent. in the last 15 years.

3.—THE LIVES who die are annually replaced by more than double the number of fresh carefully selected lives.

THE BORNEO COMPANY, LIMITED,  
Agents, Hongkong.

## GENERAL NOTICE.

### THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED.)

CAPITAL TAELS 600,000, EQUAL TO \$833,333.33.  
RESERVE FUND ..... \$318,000.00.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.  
LEW SING, Esq. LO YEEU MOON, Esq.  
LOU TEO SHUN, Esq.

MANAGER—HO AMEI.

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, &c., taken at CURRENT RATES to all parts of the world.

HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST, Hongkong, 1st December, 1888.

## NOTICE.

### THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED ..... \$1,000,000.

The above Company is prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on Goods, &c., Policies granted to all Parts of the world payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN  
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,  
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST,  
Hongkong, 1st February, 1889.

## Consignees.

### NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES. STEAMSHIP "AFGHAN," FROM GLASGOW, LIVERPOOL, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

CONSIGNNEES of Cargo are hereby informed that all goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, at Kowloon, whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

Optional cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the company be given before NOON, TODAY.

No claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining after the 5th proximo, will be subject to rent, at the rate of one cent per package per day.

All claims against the Steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the 5th proximo, or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by ADAMSON, BELL & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 27th February, 1889.

## Intimations.

### A. HAHN, PIANO TUNER AND REPAIRER. PIANOS FOR SALE.

Address: 16 HONGKONG HOTEL or No. 55, ELGIN STREET.

Hongkong, 24th December, 1888.

## W. BREWER.

### HAS JUST RECEIVED

NEW PIANO by Collard & Collard.  
Gilbert & Sullivan's "Yeoman of the Guard."  
New Violin Music.  
Instruction Books for all Musical Instruments.  
New Popular Waltzes.  
Love's Golden Dream—Roeder.  
Mis Bella—Roeder.  
Marina—Vanderveel.  
My Sweetheart—Wallace.  
Large quantity of New Songs.  
New Electric Books.

Hongkong, 22nd February, 1889.

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W. BREWER'S  
CHEAP PRINTING OFFICE,  
Opposite HONGKONG HOTEL.

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Opposite HONGKONG HOTEL.

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Intimations.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA  
L I M I T E D,  
C H E M I S T S.  
DAKIN BROTHERS  
C O M P O U N D  
C O N C E N T R A T E D D E C O C T I O N  
O F  
S A R S A P A R I L L A.

S A R S A P A R I L L A has been known and used in Europe for nearly three centuries, and still maintains its position as the best alternative and general tonic known.

It is of especial service in constitutional diseases, hereditary or acquired, in chronic rheumatism, catarrhal diseases and in all skin affections, sores, abscesses and in fact all the maladies connected with a depraved state of the system.

DAKIN BROS.' DECOCTION is prepared from the best Jamaican Sarsaparilla as directed by the British Pharmacopoeia, and contains all the medicinal virtues which belong to Sarsaparilla itself, in a highly concentrated and efficient condition.

DAKIN BROS.

I O D I Z E D S A R S A P A R I L L A.  
This is the Decoction with the addition of a proper quantity of Iodide of Potash, rendering it more suitable for certain kinds of disease, where a very rapid and powerful action is desired.

(Telephone No. 60.)  
22, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL,  
Hongkong, 26th February, 1889.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,  
Established A.D. 1841.

F A M I L Y, D I S P E N S I N G, & G E N E R A L  
C H E M I S T S.  
W H O L E S A L A R D R E T A I L D R U G G I S T S.  
P E R F U M E R S.  
I m p o r t e r s a n d E x p o r t e r s o f M A N I L A C I G A R S  
S E E D S M E N.

W I N E a n d S P I R I T M E R C H A N T S.  
P A T E N T M E D I C I N E P R O P R I E T O R S  
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M A N U F A C T U R E R S o f A E R A T E D  
W A T E R S.

B U S I N E S S A D D R E S S E S :  
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T H E H O N G K O N G D I S P E N S A R Y, H A N K O W.  
T H E D I S P E N S A R Y, F O O C H O W .  
T H E C A N T O N D I S P E N S A R Y, C A N T O N.  
Hongkong, 18th January, 1889.

N O T I C E S T O C O R R E S P O N D E N T S.

It is requested that all communications relating to Subscriptions, Advertisements, &c., be addressed to the "Manager, Hongkong Telegraph" and not to the Editor.

Letters on editorial matters, in reference to the "Editor" and not to individual members of the staff.

Communications intended for publication must be accompanied by a name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication; but as evidence of good faith.

Whilst the columns of the Hongkong Telegraph will always be open for the fair discussion by its correspondents of all questions affecting public interest, it must be distinctly understood that the Editor is not, in any way, held responsible for the opinions thus expressed.

T O A D V E R T I S E R S.

Advertisers are requested to forward all notices intended for insertion in that day's issue not later than Three o'clock to retouch the early publication of the paper.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded.

The Hongkong Telegraph has the largest circulation of any English newspaper in the Far East, and is therefore the best medium for Advertisers. Terms can be learnt on application.

The Hongkong Telegraph's number at the Telephone Central Exchange is No. 1.

T O S U B S C R I B E R S.

Subscribers to the Hongkong Telegraph are respectfully reminded that all Subscriptions are payable in advance.

B I R T H S.

On the 27th instant, at 5, Bonham Road, West Point, the wife of the Rev. J. B. Orr, of a Son.

On the 26th instant, at the Grand Hotel, Queen's Road, the wife of HOCK GOON, of a Son.

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CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS.

CONSERVATISM.

(Continued.)

Many foreigners in China, who are perfectly willing to conform to Chinese ideas in regard to Chinese affairs, do not care to have Chinese ideas thrust upon them in regard to affairs which are not Chinese. It is often very difficult to prevent Chinese friends from inundating a foreign establishment on the 1st day of January, with a view to "salute the year," although the house may be full of foreign guests, and although the master thereof most decidedly does not wish to have his foreign year "saluted" on the Chinese plan, and has been at great pains to make this clear in advance. But his Chinese friends do not care what he wants. They know what he ought to want, and what he shall have, which is an appropriate salutation for his New Year. Even while these remarks are committed to paper, the Chinese servants of the family, who have (unfortunately) just made the discovery that it is the foreign New Year, have furnished a timely illustration of this national characteristic, by appearing in a body to "salute the year," at 4 o'clock in the afternoon! Not essentially different was the liberal-conservatism of a native pundit in the writer's employ, who apologized in advance for calling upon his patrons three days after the Chinese New Year, on the ground that the elegant (borrowed) garment in which he was to appear, would be in use during the first three days by the proper owner!

The fixed resolution to do certain acts in certain ways, and in no other, is not peculiar to China. The coolies in India habitually carried burdens upon their heads, and applied the same principle to the removal of earth for railways. When the contractors substituted wheelbarrows, the coolies merely transferred the barrows to the tops of their skulls. The coolies in Brazil carry burdens in the same way as those of India.

A foreign gentleman in the former country gave a servant a letter to be posted, and was surprised to see him put the letter on his head and weight it with a stone to keep it in place. The exact similarity of mental processes reveals a similarity of cause, and it is a cause very potent in Chinese affairs. It leads to those multiplied instances of imitativeness, with which we are all familiar, as when the cook breaks an egg and throws it away, each time that he makes a pudding, because on the first occasion when he was shown how to make a pudding an egg happened to be bad; or when the tailor puts a patch on a new garment, because an old one given him as a measure, chanced to be thus decorated. Stories of this sort are doubtless often meant as harmless exaggerations of a Chinese characteristic, but they represent the reality with great fidelity.

Every one acquainted with Chinese habits will be able to adduce instances of a devotion to precedent, which seems to us unaccountable, and which really is so, until we apprehend the postulate which underlies the act. In a country which stretches through some twenty-five degrees of latitude, but in which winter furs are taken off, and straw hats are put on, according to a fixed rule for the whole empire, it would be strange if precedent were not a kind of divinity. In regions where the only heat in the houses during the cold winter comes from the scanty fire under the "stove-bed," or *hang*, it is not uncommon for travellers who have been caught in a sudden "cold snap," to find that no arguments can induce the landlord of the inn to heat the *hang* because the season for heating the *hang* has not arrived. The reluctance of Chinese artificers to adopt new methods is sufficiently well known to all, but perhaps few of these conservatives are more conservative than the head of a company of workmen employed to burn bricks in a kiln which, with all that is contained thereto, was the property of foreigners, and not of those who worked it. As there was occasion to use a kind of square bricks larger than those which happened to be in the fashion in that region, the foreigner ordered larger ones to be made. All that was necessary, for this purpose, was simply the preparation of a wooden tray, the size of the required brick, to be used as a mould. When the bricks were wanted they were not forthcoming, and the foreman, to whom the orders had been given, being called to account for his neglect, refused to be a party to any such innovation, adducing as his all sufficient reason, the affirmation that *under the whole heavens, there is no such mould as this!*

The bearing of the subject of conservatism upon the relation of foreigners to China and the Chinese is not likely to be lost sight of for a moment, by any one whose lot is cast in China, and who has the smallest interest in the future welfare of this mighty empire. The last quarter of the nineteenth century seems destined to be a critical period in Chinese history. A great deal of very new wine is offered to the Chinese, who have no other provision for its reception, than a varied assortment of very old wine-skins. Thanks to the instinctive conservatism of the Chinese nature, very little of the new wine has thus far been accepted, and for that little, new bottles are in course of preparation. The present attitude of China towards the lands of the West is an attitude of procrastination. There is on the one hand, small desire for that which is new, and upon the other, no desire at all, nor even willingness to give up the old. As we see ancient mud that has long ago to have reverted to their native earth, shored up with clumsy mud pillars which but postpone the inevitable fall, so we behold old customs, old superstitions, and old fashions now outworn, propped up and made to do the same duty as heretofore. "If the old does not go, the new does not come," we are told, and not without truth. The process of change from the one to the other may long be resisted, and may then come about suddenly. At a time when it was first proposed to introduce telegraphs, the Governor General of a maritime province reported to the Emperor that the hostility of the people to the innovation was so great, that the wires could not be put up. But when war with France was imminent, and the construction of the line was put upon an entirely different basis, the provincial authorities promptly set up the telegraph wires, and saw that they were respected. Ten years ago, the superstition of *lung-chu* was believed by many to be an almost insuperable obstacle to the introduction of railways in China. The very first short line constructed as an outlet for the *kuai-ping* coal mines, passed through a large Chinese cemetery, the graves being removed to make way for it, as they would have been in England or in France. A single inspection of that bisected graveyard was sufficient to produce the conviction that *lung-chu* could never stand before an engine, when the issue is narrowed down to trial of strength between "wind-water" and steam. The experience gained in the recent extension of this initial line shows clearly that however financial considerations may delay the introduction of railways, romantic superstitions are for this purpose quite inert.

The union of the conservative instinct with the capacity for invasion of precedents, is visible in important Chinese affairs. In China no principle is better settled, than that when one of his parents dies, an official must retire from office. Yet against his repeated and "earnest" remonstrances, the most powerful subject in the empire is commanded by the throne to continue his attention to the intricate details of the most important pleasure of duty to be found for the empire, through all the years of his life. The union of the ordinary events in man's life, with the extraordinary events in man's life, is known to a "boy" who, neither drinks, smokes, nor gambles, and who is kept poor by marriage, birth, and death. As for the daily labourer who can earn in the spring or autumn, when ships are discharging or loading much cargo, say £50 to £200 cash, it is no too tiresome that the rate of £14 to £16 per month, shall not be made up, for a pipe of opium, to be enjoyed himself, his master's garments notwithstanding. Generally the ordinary working Chapman,

death of his mother. No principle would seem to be more firmly established in China, than that a father is the superior of his son, who must always do him reverence. Equally well established is the principle that the emperor is superior to all his subjects, who must always do him reverence. When therefore, as at present, it happens that from a collateral line is adopted a young emperor, whose father is still living, it would appear to be inevitable that the father must either commit suicide, or go into a permanent retirement. Such, it was supposed when Kuang Hsi ascended the throne, would actually be the end of Prince Chün. Yet during the illness of the latter, his son the emperor made repeated calls upon his subordinate superior, the father; and some modus vivendi has been arrived at, since this same father holds important offices under his son.

As already remarked, the conservative instinct leads the Chinese to attach undue importance to a precedent. But rightly understood, and cautiously used, this is a great safeguard for foreigners in their dealings with so sensitive, so obstinate, and so conservative a people. It is only necessary to imitate the Chinese method, to take things for granted, to assume the existence of rights which have not been expressly withheld, to defend them warily when they are assailed and by all means to hold on. Thus, as in the case of the right of foreign residence in Peking, the right of foreign residence in the interior, and in many others, wise conservatism is the safest defence. The threatening reef which seemed so insuperable barrier to navigation, once penetrated, offers upon the inner side a lagoon of peace and tranquillity, safe from the storms and breakers which vainly beat against it.

The Chinese never for an instant see themselves from the idea expressed by Napoleon, when pointing to the pyramids, "they cried to their soldiers, 'Forty centuries are looking down upon you!'" But when we consider in the abstract, and especially when we encounter in the concrete, the embarrassments arising from Chinese determination to be consistent with the vast background of their history, most of us will sympathise with the view of a little girl who had been disputing with her brother as to which of them was born earlier in the day. The mother decided that the brother was born at two in the morning, and his sister at seven. "I don't care," was the reply, "the time is up!" — *N. C. Daily News.*

FORMOSA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Tamsui, 10th February, 1889.

The joint proclamation issued some time ago by H.E. Liu Ming Chuan and Liu, Assistant Commissioner, exhorting the people to plant the mulberry, with the view of creating a silk industry in Formosa, is already bearing some good fruit, as large tracts of land in the neighbourhood of Taipakfu and Banca are already planted with mulberry trees and the leaves are large and hardy, and to all appearance the soil of Formosa is very good for this purpose.

The energetic compradore of Messrs. Boyd & Co., Mr. Li Ching Sing, who was one of the first who started experimentally the rearing of silk-worms with great success, sent some of the silk to Canton and Shanghai, and it was when compared with silk at these places found to be equal in quality, and when manufactured should produce silk of the same value as Canton and Shanghai silk. Mr. Sueter, from Shanghai, has been here several weeks in connection with the commencing of the silk industry, and it is to be hoped that some of the wealthy Chinese will combine together, and now that experimental rearing of silk-worms has proved a success, will commence on a large scale.

By the *Fokien*, Mr. Thet and his family have left again, and as far as I can understand, they were not successful in making any contract with the Governor. Rain, rain every day; wet, cold and miserable weather.

No later news regarding the wreck of the *Anglo-India*.

The north-east monsoon has been very boisterous of late in the Formosa Strait, and the telegraph steamer *Feecheu* has not succeeded well in repairing the Pescadores cable.

There are other storms in North Formosa—say at Taipakfu—brewing very strongly.

As you doubtlessly are aware, the Governor of Formosa sent his Secretary, Hung Shih, to England, to bring out the steamers *Cass* and *Smith* from home. Poor Hung is now in due course in Taipakfu for squandering money belonging to the government in personal jollification. The cousins and uncles, said to have found employment in Formosa by the party whose name I have mentioned, are said to be ordered away from the island by H.E. the Governor—one of the best Governors we have had in this country. — *Mercury.*

NEWCHWANG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

25th January, 1889.

It is hardly any use giving news of this place, for what we can say is simply a repetition of the story. Starvation everywhere for the poor people, it becomes monotonous, but for actual witnesses the scenes are simply harrowing. Villages of fifty to three hundred families, all dying for want of the common necessities of life. Every winter there is more or less distress in this, perhaps the poorest province of China, but this has been the worst in the experience of the oldest resident. If any unusual or unexpected misfortune overtakes natives, they are completely done for, for they have not the least notion of providing for rainy day, and twenty-five years of prosperity are completely wasted on the gentry of, say, servants in comfortable foreign employment, whereas, as compared to the pay received in the highest mandarin families, they are in clover. The advantages, as a rule, are continually lost. Even when they don't gamble, and the best Chinese are given to the passion, so much so that it is considered right to allow it some outlet for ten days at new year time, there are events always taking place. Parents, wife, children, etc., die and have to be buried, or the youth takes a wife. This eventually might have been put before an event takes place—whether marriage, birth or funeral—all the savings, if there be any, are squandered away in presents or festivities. The chances are there are not any savings, so several months of the earnings are spent and the calf is skinned before its birth. Everything is pawned, and money is borrowed at 5 per cent. interest. "Makie" is the order of the day. A woman, as we read in the official *gazette*, even sells herself to bury her mother. It is not a question of opium smoking or dram drinking, or gambling, any of which passions, whether in China or anywhere else, will ruin anyone, but simply the ordinary events in man's life, I know a "boy" who, neither drinks, smokes nor gambles, and who is kept poor by marriage, birth and death. As for the daily labourer who can earn in the spring or autumn, when ships are discharging or loading much cargo, say £50 to £200 cash, it is no too tiresome that the rate of £14 to £16 per month, shall not be made up, for a pipe of opium, to be enjoyed himself, his master's garments notwithstanding.

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improvident and the knowledge brought before his eyes daily, that as he was singing instead of gathering during the summer, he will have to dance in the winter, and such winter, too, does improve him. It is just, however, to admit that privations to the verge of starvation are borne with heroic patience. What the quality is that enables a Chinaman to bear with equanimity the greatest troubles that flesh is heir to, would be worth knowing. Is it simply patience or callousness? An extraordinary instance occurred at the foreign hospital at Moukden, under the care of Dr. Christie. A Chinaman presented himself for treatment, and brought his coffin with him. Said he: "All that our doctors can do is useless, and I am come to you, not because you can cure me, but just to show that I will not throw away any chance." The doctor replied: "There must be a great operation which may cause death, but it may cure you." The patient submitted with, one cannot well say indifference, for the ordeal required heroism, and he had his coffin ready for the last emergency, having given the doctor the necessary security in case of death. The man was saved, and is a living monument of Dr. Christie's skill and medical knowledge, and of a Chinaman's patience. — *N. C. Daily News.*

TIENTSIN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Tientsin, 2nd February, 1889.

The surveying party, consisting of Messrs. Yang, Ng-choy, Kinder, and Knox, has returned from Tungchow. The proposed Tungchow railway has been knocked on the head. It was stated that permission had been received to build the line, but it is doubtful if proper authority was ever received.

The report in the *Chinese Times* of the gap in the bank of the Yellow River having been closed by the 19th January is doubted, as there is no change in the colour of the water in the Grand Canal. If it had been closed the Yellow River would flow through Shantung, and freely supply the Grand Canal with its muddy water, and from this flow into the Peiho; but as no change in the water has taken place, we may rest assured that the gap is not closed. The editor of the *Chinese Times* ought to know this.

Your morning contemporary, in a leading article on the Governor-Generals and Governors of the distressed provinces, saying what they might do and what they ought not to do, had better ask the question: How much have these officials contributed out of their private purse towards the relief of the famine stricken people? The Chinese tell me that H.E. Li Hung Chang has not contributed a cent, and we hear nothing of the sums given by the other Governor-Generals and Governors.

How is it that these people do not themselves "shell out"? Not because they cannot afford it, I am sure. Other lists they can head with handsome sums; they can throw it into the gap of the Yellow River, and for other causes of less moment. Their Majesties have freely and liberally contributed towards the relief of the poor, and the famine sufferers, and why should not the High Officials of various provinces do likewise? Kung Tantai has come forward very liberally, and why should not others? To do others as they would have others do to them does certainly not appear in the Buddhist doctrine, a doctrine which appears to be upheld by our leading Missionary friends at Peking.

The Kuiping Mining Company has not, up to the present turned out a golden investment. They have sunk another shaft twenty-six feet further inland, and are now busy extending the line to it. I suppose sinking two new shafts became necessary.

Tientsin, February 4th.

From Peking I learn that the Imperial marriage will take place on the day fixed, and the three gates of the palace that were burnt are to be temporarily put in order for the occasion. I hear the fire was caused by one of the guards placing *sanshu* in the stove to warm. Whilst this was being done one of the officers in charge who was inspecting the guards passed by. The soldier hurried out of the guard-room, forgetting to remove the *sanshu*, which boiled over and ignited, and in a very few seconds the guard-room was ablaze.

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